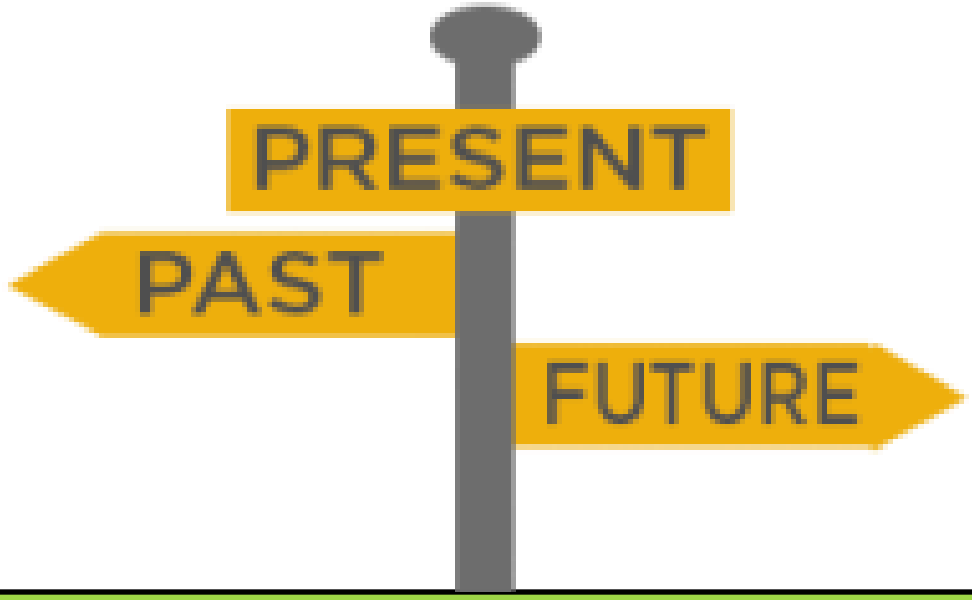
Unit 6:
Explorers
Lesson 1

Learning objectives:

Speaking: To discuss reasons for making expeditions in the past.

Reading: To identify main themes and specific information in short descriptions of expeditions.

eXpLorations



Key vocabulary:

Dangerous difficult journey

Sail travel diary

Lesson 1 Famous explorers

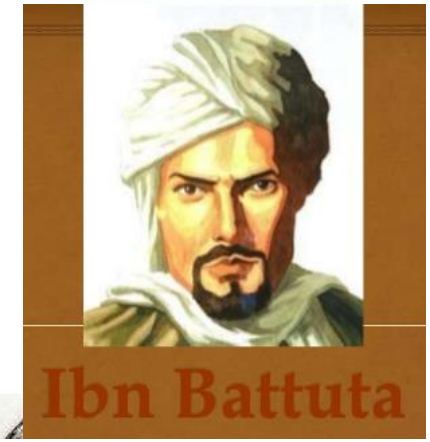
1 Talk about it

21st Which famous explorers do you know? Where did they go? What did they find?

Famous Explorers

Christopher Columbus

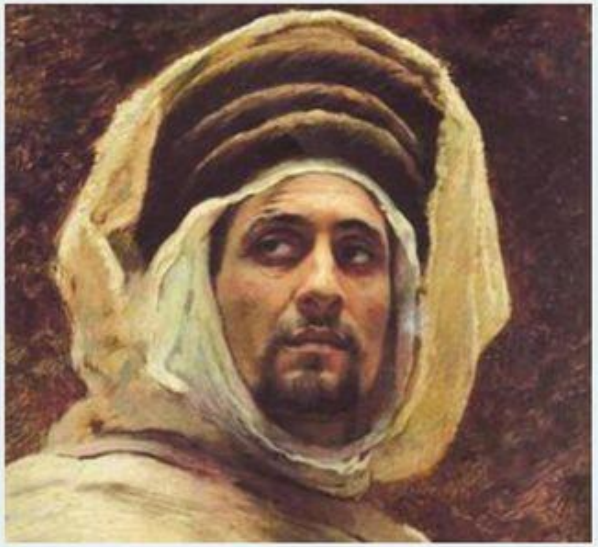
Vasco da Gama



Explorers from the UAE

Ahmed ibn Majid, who was also know as the Lion of the Sea, was famous for exploring and navigating the seas.

Ahmed ibn Majid, was born in a place called Julfar which is now know as **Ras Al-Khaimah.** This was in the early 1400s, a long time before the seven emirates united to make the UAE.



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2 Read

Match each text with a title: 1, 2 or 3.

C 1 A hard trip to find out where something starts

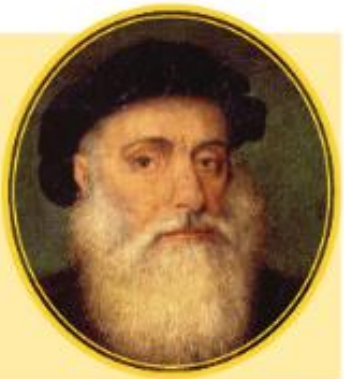
B 2 A long journey to explain something new

A 3 Two explorers from different countries travel together

A

Vasco da Gama

Vasco da Gama was a Portuguese explorer. In 1497, he was the first person to **sail** from Europe to India. What was so special about his journey? He found a way by sea that was safer than other routes by land. Ahmad ibn Mājid was a very famous Arab explorer who helped Vasco da Gama on his long journey. Ibn Mājid had a special name – the 'lion of the sea'!



B

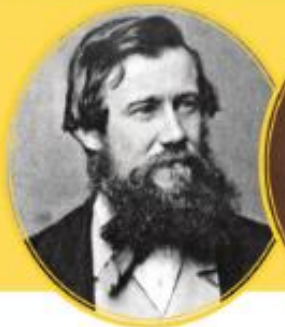
Ibn Fadlan

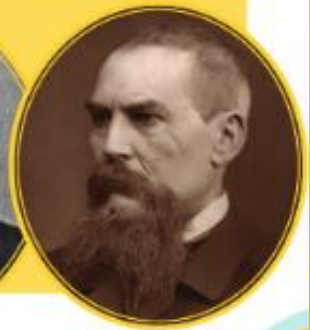
In 921, Ibn Fadlan travelled from Baghdad to Bulgaria. Why did he **travel** so far? He wanted to tell people about the Islamic religion and help them to understand Islamic laws. How far did he travel? More than 4000 kilometres! He wrote a **diary** about his journey, and about the people he met.

C

Richard Burton and John Speke

Richard Burton and John Speke were two British explorers. In 1857 they travelled to Africa. It was a very **difficult** and **dangerous** journey. So why did they do it? They wanted to find the start of the River Nile! Now people know that the River Nile starts at Lake Victoria, in Tanzania and Uganda.





3 Vocabulary

Look at the words in **blue** in the texts. Match them to their definitions below.

a to go on a boat **Sail**

b not easy **Difficult**

c not safe; you can get hurt **Dangerous**

d where you write what you do and see **Diary**

e to go from one place to another **travel**

A Vasco da Gama

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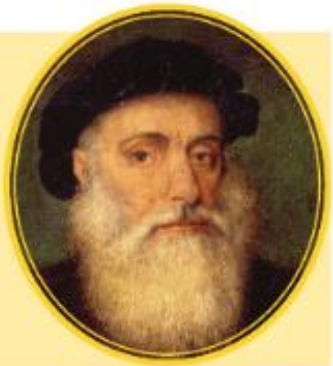

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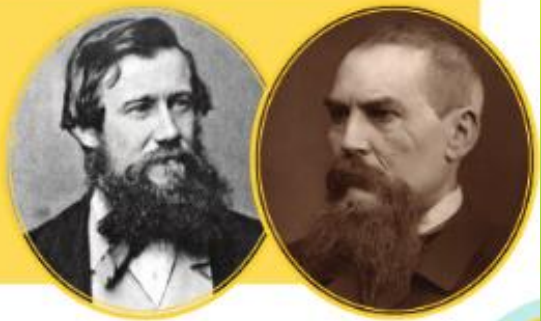

Unit 6

Explorers

Lesson 1 Famous explorers

1 **Read** the texts in your Learner's Book on page 87 again. Why did the explorers make their journeys? Match a reason to a text.

1 To find out important information about a place ____C____

2 To find another way to get from one place to another ____A____

3 To help people and tell them about Islamic laws ____B____

2 **Vocabulary** Complete the text with a word from the box.

sail dangerous diaries travel

The Age of Exploration

Did you know that there was a time when explorations were very popular? It began in the 15th century and explorers used to ___travel___ (1) a long way by sea or land to find new places. They would ___sail___ (2) for many days or weeks on big ships. They usually did not know when or where they would arrive! Their journeys were often very ___dangerous___ (3), and many people died on the way. Many of them wrote in ___diaries___ (4) about what they saw and did, and that's why we know about their journeys today.

3 **Talk** Think about the three journeys you read about. Which do you think was the most important, and why? Imagine you were on one of them. Which one would you choose, and why? Make notes and then tell your group.

_____

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